

The throat striations of *Acanthiza* are unique. Each feather has two edges black but not the tip. As the feathers overlies one another the effect produced is a series of bold black striations. These, however, are movable and rearrange themselves as the feathers are moved from side to side. The markings are entirely different from those of *Hylacola pyrrhopygia* (first called *Acanthiza pyrrhopygia* by Vigors and Horsfield), which consist of a black central stripe on each feather. A marked peculiarity of *Geobasileus* is that the two outermost tail feathers have a white, or buff edging on the outer web, distally, for at least half an inch.

There have been listed ten species and no less than 73 subspecies\*—total 83. I submit there are 17 species and 43 subspecies—total 60.

My notes and criticisms where they touch upon the work of others are intended to be constructive, building upon the foundations already laid, or at most a rearrangement of certain parts of the material already in hand.

For the examination of the bird-skins and literature I am chiefly indebted to the trustees of the National Museum, Melbourne (per favour of Mr. J. A. Kershaw, Curator), in which is the "H. L. White Collection" of skins. I am also indebted for material and assistance to the R.A.O.U., to Mr. Edwin Ashby, Adelaide, and to Mr. A. J. Campbell, Melbourne.

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## The Annual Congress and Camp-out of the R.A.O.U.

The twenty-first annual congress was held at the Royal Society's rooms, Adelaide, on October 16th, 17th, and 18th (three sessions daily), and the camp-out was held at Mt. Remarkable from October 19th—24th. Lectures illustrated by lantern slides were given in the Royal Society's rooms and at Melrose, Mt. Remarkable, by Dr. MacGillivray, Captain White, Messrs. Cayley and Bellchambers. The proceedings terminated with committee meetings to clean up the check-list on Wednesday, October 25. This "majority" congress ranks amongst the most important in the history of the Union. Delegates were present from all the States except Western Australia. South Australia, the home State, of course, had the largest representation. Tasmania and Victoria had four delegates each; New South Wales had two,

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\*See "List of The Birds of Australia," 1913, G. M. Mathews, and additions thereto.

and Queensland one—the President, C. A. Barnard, who started from half a day west of Rockhampton, and travelled far to discharge his duty as president and show his interest in the R.A.O.U. and ornithology generally.

The minutes of the previous congress were read and confirmed.

Apologies and greetings were received from Messrs. Barker, Chisholm and Cornwall, and Dr. Spencer Roberts (Q.); Messrs. Kinghorn, A. S. Le Souef and H. L. White (N.S.W.); R. Hall (Tas.), and Mr. D. Le Souef and Dr. Brooke Nicholls (Vic.).

Mr. Ashby reported an interesting visit to the B.O.U., and regrets that members were unable to make it convenient to attend. Mr. Elves, F.R.S., Pres. B.O.U., sent warm greetings direct.

As the R.A.O.U. had now reached its majority it was decided that the President should send loyal greetings to their Majesties the King and Queen, who have been royal co-patrons since the inception of the Union. A satisfactory acknowledgment was received later. The text of the cable and reply are as follow:—

#### CABLEGRAM

[COPY]

16/10/22

The King, London. — Royal Australasian Ornithologists' "majority meeting," Adelaide, sends loyal greetings Their Majesties.—Leach, President.

Reply received through Governor-General.—"Please convey to the President of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union Their Majesties' thanks for loyal message sent on the occasion of the celebrations in Adelaide."

The annual report and balance-sheet, both of a highly satisfactory nature, were received and adopted without amendment. The librarian's and editor's reports were received and adopted. Substantial progress with the Union's library and quarterly journal *The Emu* were revealed. The sum of £508 had been absorbed in the publication of *The Emu*. Members expressed themselves as well satisfied with the journal, which was well worth the money it cost. It was decided to recommend the Council to widen the influence and increase the circulation of *The Emu* as much as possible.

In honour of two noted ornithologists, Messrs. F. R. Zeitz, Ornithologist, Adelaide Museum, and Frank M. Littler, F.E.S., Launceston, author of "The Birds of Tasmania," members stood in silence after ordering that letters of condolence should be sent to the relatives.



Upper.—Queen Mary (then the Duchess of York) at Fernshaw, (Vic.) 1901.  
Lower.—Royal Steamship "Ophir" off Port Melbourne. This vessel brought  
the Duke and Duchess of York (now King and Queen) to Australia, 1901.

Photos. communicated by A. J. Campbell, C.M.B O.U.



Chas. A. Barnard Esq.  
Retiring President, R.A.O.U.

The election of officers resulted as follows:—

Co-Patrons: Their Majesties the King and Queen.

President: Dr. J. A. Leach, C.M.B.O.U., C.F.A.O.U. (Victoria).

Vice-Presidents: Major E. A. Le Souef, B.V.Sc. (Zool. Gardens, Perth), Mr. E. Ashby, M.B.O.U., C.F.A.O.U. (S.A.).

Hon. General Secretary: Mr. Z. Gray, L.C.A., 2 Temple Court, Collins Street, Melbourne.

Hon. Assistant Secretary: Mr. H. F. Clinton.

Hon. Treasurer: Dr. Brooke Nicholls, 2 Temple Court, Melbourne.

Hon. Editor of "The Emu": Dr. J. A. Leach, C.M.B.O.U., 2 Temple Court, Collins Street, Melbourne.

Hon. Assistant Editor: Mr. R. T. Littlejohns, R.A.O.U.

Hon. Librarian: Mr. F. E. Wilson.

Hon. Press Correspondent: Mr. A. H. Chisholm, "Daily Telegraph" Office, Sydney.

Curators: (a) Skins: Mr. D. F. F. Thomson. (b) Eggs: Mr. J. A. Ross. (c) Photos, slides, etc.: Mr. S. A. Lawrence.

Hon. Auditors: Mr. Jas. Barr, F.C.P.A., 42 Temple Court, Melbourne; Mr. J. Hedding, Monomeith Avenue, Canterbury.

#### State Secretaries:

Mr. N. Cayley, R.A.O.U., Pitt Street, Sydney.

Mr. G. H. Barker, Albert Street, Brisbane.

Capt. S. A. White, C.M.B.O.U., Wetunga, Fulham, South Australia.

Mr. B. W. Leake, Woolundra, Western Australia.

Mr. C. E. Lord, Mt. Nelson Road, Sandy Bay, Hobart, Tasmania.

Mr. W. R. B. Oliver, F.L.S., R.A.O.U., Dominion Museum, Wellington, N.Z.

#### Council:

Victoria.—Mr. C. L. Barrett and Dr. G. Horne.

New South Wales.—Dr. E. A. D'Ombraïn and Mr. A. S. Le Souef.

Queensland.—Messrs. W. B. Alexander, M.A., and A. H. Longman.

South Australia.—Mr. E. Ashby, M.B.O.U., and Prof. J. B. Cleland.

West Australia.—Mr. Justice T. P. Draper, M.B.E., and Mr. P. T. Sandland.

Tasmania.—Mr. H. Stuart Dove, F.Z.S., and Col. T. M. Evans.

New Zealand.—Mr. R. H. D. Stidolph, 28 Makora Road, Masterton, Wairarapa, New Zealand, and A. G. Smith, N.Z.

Ex-Presidents (ex officio members).—Sur-Gen. Sir C. S. Ryan, Messrs. Chas. A. Barnard, R.A.O.U., A. J. Campbell, F.A.O.U., A. H. Mattingley, C.F.A.O.U., D. Le Souef, C.M.Z.S., R. Hall, C.M.B.O.U., J. W. Mellor, R.A.O.U., A. B. Hull, C.F.A.O.U., and Dr. W. Macgillivray, R.A.O.U.

#### Check-List Committee (not subject to re-election).

Mr. W. B. Alexander, M.A., C.F.A.O.U., Mr. C. L. Barrett, C.M.Z.S., Mr. A. J. Campbell, C.M.B.O.U., Mr. A. H. Chisholm, R.A.O.U., Mr. R. Hall, C.M.B.O.U., Mr. A. F. Basset Hull, C.F.A.O.U., Dr. J. A. Leach, C.M.B.O.U., C.F.A.O.U., Mr. W. H. D. Le Souef, C.M.Z.S., etc., Dr. Macgillivray, R.A.O.U., Mr. G. M. Mathews, F.R.S.E., Mr. A. H. E. Mattingley, C.M.Z.S., Mr. H. L. White, C.F.A.O.U., Captain S. A. White, C.M.B.O.U., C.F.A.O.U.

The presidential address was well received.

The burning question of the export of live Australian birds produced a vigorous discussion, which resulted in the carrying of the following resolutions:—

- (1) That no export of Australian birds be allowed for profit;
- (2) That no export of any bird in danger of extinction be permitted;
- (3) That no export without adequate inspection be allowed;
- (4) That a board be constituted to control the necessary export and exchange of birds for scientific and educational purposes; the board to consist of two representatives of the R.A.O.U. and (a) one representative of the University and learned societies in each State; (b) one representative of State natural history and animal protection societies; (c) one representative of the Zoological Society in each State; and (d) one representative of the Museum in each State.

The Congress ordered the following telegram to be despatched to the Minister for Customs, Hon. Rodgers: "Request prohibit totally export Australian fauna pending receipt scheme adopted by Conference."

It was decided to co-operate with the Australian Veterinary Association in securing adequate inspection and control of export of Australian birds "owing to the important role played by insects in the transmission and causation of disease in live stock."

Mr. Cayley submitted a fine report of the establishment and activities of the N.S.W. State branch of the R.A.O.U., in affiliation with the Royal Zoological Society.

Mr. Edgar R. Waite referred to the death of Mr. F. R. Zeitz, late Ornithologist to the S.A. Museum, and to the loss that had been sustained thereby. The Board of Governors had decided not to fill the vacancy for the present, but had appointed Dr. A. M. Morgan, hon. curator in ornithology. Dr. Morgan would be in attendance daily, during the session, from 4 to 5 p.m., when the reference collection of bird skins and eggs would be available for inspection by members. Mr. Waite said that Dr. Morgan had associated with him in an unofficial capacity, Mr. Sutton, and he was quite sure that when the next annual report was submitted to the Board the value of Mr. Sutton's services would be duly recorded.

The late Mr. F. S. Smith, who also was a member of the R.A.O.U. for many years, died at a comparatively early age on the 4th February last. His work for the *Argus* was of the greatest value indirectly to the Union. He helped to develop that interested public opinion and appreciation which have placed the Union in the strong position it now occupies.



The report was received, and it was resolved to ask each State secretary to submit a report on State activities for publication in each issue of *The Emu*.

In pursuance of notice of motion Mr. Ashby moved, and Mr. Campbell seconded, that the seven clauses dealing with permits and collection agreed to at the previous conference be rescinded. After a free discussion, in which many took part, the adjournment for lunch took place. After lunch Mr. Ashby, with the consent of his seconder, withdrew his motion, and the following was inserted instead of clause 2:—That real students be encouraged and that the granting of permits to promising *bona fide* workers under reasonable restrictions be recommended.

On the motion of Messrs. A. J. Campbell and C. A. Barnard, the seven clauses were then adopted as the official platform of the R.A.O.U., as regards permits and private collections.

1. That recognised ornithologists, pursuing some definite course of research, should be allowed to continue to collect specimens under statutory permit, with a view to the ultimate donation of such specimens to a public institution.

2. That real students be encouraged and that the granting of permits to promising *bona fide* workers under reasonable restrictions be recommended.

3. That promiscuous collecting, or the formation of any new collection, be discountenanced, and that any collectors, other than those coming under recommendation No. 1, be advised to donate their collections to some recognised public institution.

4. That any member found guilty of collecting without a permit or in a sanctuary, or of any other breach of the Statutes relating to Bird Protection, shall be dealt with under the Articles.

5. That the State authorities be asked to consult the Union before granting any permit to collect birds or eggs.

6. That foreign collectors be required to describe any new species in an Australian scientific publication, and that the type specimen shall be deposited in a museum of the State in which it is taken.

7. That the Customs Department be urged to prohibit the exportation of the plumage and eggs of any Australasian bird.

On the motion of Mr. E. Ashby and Captain S. A. White, it was decided to request each State Government to set apart in all future surveys of townships a reserve of not less than 300 acres, and request that this area should be left in a state of nature, and that all farmers be urged to save some natural shelter for insectivorous birds.

The scheme for distinctions for members submitted by Mr. A. H. Chisholm was referred to a sub-committee consisting of Messrs. Alexander and Chisholm (Q.), Butler (Tas.), Hull (N.S.W.), and J. A. Ross (Vic.), for early consideration and report to the Council.

It was decided, on the suggestion of Mr. A. S. Le Souef (Director Sydney Zoological Gardens), to recommend to the State Government that the forest reserves of each State should be declared sanctuaries, and that if possible special sanctuaries should be declared for species in danger of extermination. It was decided that enquiries be made into the truth of a report that seabird eggs are being taken by Japanese from the Barrier Reef area.

Mr. A. J. Campbell, C.M.B.O.U., F.A.O.U., read a valuable paper on "Naming Birds, Type Descriptions, Etc., According to the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature." It was well received, and all agreed on the desirability of full and adequate description according to the recognized code.

Mr. A. G. Campbell, J.P., R.A.O.U., sent a valuable paper, summing up the results of several years' study of the Acanthize —a difficult Australian group. Mr. Campbell advocated 2 genera, 17 species, and 63 sub-species, as against 6 genera, 10 species, and 80 sub-species recommended by Mr. Mathews. The paper was considered opportune and valuable to the Check-list Committee.

Mr. Neville Cayley, author of the forthcoming work on The Birds of Australia, explained a colour chart embracing the 200 colours needed to describe Australian animals. It was expected that copies would be available at a moderate price. This is a modification of Professor Ridgway's well-known colour chart.

The chief item of business—the Official Check-list, second edition—was reserved for last place on the business paper, so as to permit inspection by the committee of material in the Adelaide Museum. Dr. Morgan, Hon. Ornithologist, S.A. Museum, assisted the committee to a decision on several knotty points with his well-kept and well-arranged specimens. The report of the committee showing that finality was being approached was adopted. A sub-committee consisting of Messrs. W. B. Alexander and A. J. Campbell, and the convener (Dr. J. A. Leach) was authorised to complete the list and to arrange for publication as soon as convenient.

Two scientific names, *Dacelo gigas* and *Gerygone albobularis*, whose priority was not certain, were made the subject of a reference to the International Commission on Scientific Nomenclature with a request that these names be retained on the Australian list.



Many vernacular names were discussed and popular favourites like Jacky Winter for the Australian Brown Flycatcher, Chowchilla for the so-called Logrunners and Sittella for the Nuthatches or Tree-runners were accepted. The recommendation was made to the committee that wherever possible vernacular names applying to more than one species should all be qualified. Thus *Artamus cyanopterus* would be known as the Dusky Wood Swallow, not the Wood Swallow, and *Platycercus eximius* as the Common Rosella. A resolution was ordered to be entered in the minutes expressing satisfaction with the work of the committee, with special mention of the work of Mr. A. J. Campbell and Dr. J. A. Leach.

Captain White exhibited a series of skins of the Adelaide Rosella, showing that it was a form of *Platycercus elegans*, the Crimson Rosella, and not of *P. flaveolus*, the Yellow Rosella. It had green young, like those of *P. elegans*, while there was no green stage in the life history of *P. flaveolus*.

It was decided that the Congress of 1923 should be held at Hobart.

Votes of thanks to all who had contributed to the success of the congress, and the retiring office-bearers were carried.

One incident indicating the good public feeling developed in the community and the good work done by the Education Department in its schools, under the direction of Mr. A. G. Edquist, nature study organiser, in the formation of Bird Clubs, must be recorded. At Booleroo Centre, a few miles from Mt. Remarkable, the lively strains of "Australia Will be There" reached the delegates as the train drew up. The school Bird Club, led by the school band, with big drum, side drum, fifes and tin whistles, presented an address of welcome to the ornithologists. The President, Dr. J. A. Leach, Capt. White (S.A.), C. A. Barnard (Q.), and Neville Cayley (N.S.W.), acknowledged the address, and wished the Bird Club and the head teacher (Mr. D. D. Smith) success. The band gave several selections in a creditable manner.

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HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR YEAR  
ENDED 30/6/1922.

2 Temple Court,  
Melbourne, 14/10/22.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

I am pleased to report that the affairs of the Union have continued to progress during the last year.

ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, Year ended 30th June, 1922

RECEIPTS.

To Balance, General Fund . . .	£109 8 10
Color Fund . . . . .	6 16 9
Trust Fund . . . . .	3 19 6
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Subscriptions, arrears, 1919 ..	£0 15 0
" " 1920 ..	2 5 0
" " 1921 (56)	59 1 6
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Subscriptions, current in advance—	£62 1 6
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1922 (376)	£394 11 0
1923 (45)	47 5 0
Life (1)	5 5 0
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Sales, £25/8/5; Donations, £52/2/-; Interest, £2/10/-; Covers, £2/0/4; Reprints, £10/8/-; Blocks, £13/17/10 . . . .	106 6 7
Exchange, £4/6/3; "Emu" Indexes, £2/5/-	6 11 3
Color Fund—Donations . . . . £26 17 4	
Advertisements,	
etc. . . . .	4 3 0
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Trust Fund, Interest . . . . .	60 0 0

EXPENDITURE.

"Emu," Vol. 21—Printing . . .	£355 5 0
Posting . . . . .	13 15 9
Blocks . . . . .	79 5 3
Color Plates . . . . .	14 0 0
Reprints . . . . .	43 19 6
Posting . . . . .	1 1 5
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Vol. 21, Patrons . . . . .	£507 6 11
Copyright, etc. . . . .	0 4 6
Vol. 22—Blocks . . . . .	0 16 0
Color Plate . . . . .	9 3 2
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Postage £17/19/8; Stationery £12/11/-; Exchange £4/10/1; Commission £1/12/-; Covers £2/16/7 . . . . .	33 7 6
Reserve Account . . . . .	39 9 4
Room Rent £32/10/-; Cleaning £5/4/-; Light £1/4/-; Insurance £3/10/3; Cabinet £31 5/-; Specimen 5/-; Bookcase £16/5/-; Library Books £4 3/-; Binding 9/6 . . . . .	99 3 9
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Royal Bank—Cr. Balance—	£775 3 9
General Fund . . . . .	£84 4 4
Color Fund . . . . .	4 13 11
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Less Trust Fund, Dr. . . . .	£88 18 3
	30 16 3
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	58 2 0
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	£833 5 9

ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, Year ended 30th June, 1922

Vol. XXII.]  
1923

R.A.O.U. Congress

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LIABILITIES.

ASSETS.	£58 2 0	Nil.	£1,824 4 6
To Royal Bank, Credit Balance . . . . .	£58 2 0	Balance	£1,824 4 6
Subscription Arrears, Estimated good . . . . .	£50 0 0		
Less prepaid . . . . .	48 0 0		
	<hr style="width: 100%;"/>		
Library . . . . .	2 0 0		
Furniture Specimens . . . . .	325 0 0		
Blocks, estimated at . . . . .	243 5 0		
"Emus" on hand, estimated at . . . . .	10 0 0		
Tent, Material, Punch and Register . . . . .	100 0 0		
Reserve Fund—Commonwealth 5% Bonds, due 15/9/23 . . . . .	3 17 6		
Trust Account—Commonwealth 6% Bonds, due 15/12/1930 . . . . .	100 0 0		
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	£1,824 4 6		£1,824 4 6

Audited and certified correct.

Z. GRAY, L.C.A., Hon. Sec.

BROOKE NICHOLLS, Hon. Treasurer.

Melbourne, 1st July, 1922,

JAMES BARR, F.C.P.A. / Hon. Auditors.  
JAMES HEDDING

15/9/1922.

The members on roll now number 485, made up as follow :  
Life, 6; ordinary, 469; honorary, 10, distributed over—

Victoria . . . . .	176	Tasmania . . . . .	24
New South Wales . .	112	New Zealand . . . . .	15
Queensland . . . . .	50	England . . . . .	30
South Australia . . .	27	Foreign . . . . .	23
Western Australia . .	18	Honorary . . . . .	10

and with exchanges 19, making a circulation of 504. We print 550 copies of *Emu*, the balance being on hand for sales.

Sixty-three new members and 2 life members have joined during the year; 10 have been removed by death, and 40 have dropped out through resignations, etc.

The heavy cost of printing *The Emu* is still a matter of serious concern, and last year amounted to £508, including £43/19/6 for reprints.

The following generous donations have been very helpful, and our sincere thanks are due to the donors:—

Purple Cross Service . . . . .	£50	0	0
Late Dr. Geo. Hurst . . . . .	2	2	0
"Anonymous," for blocks . . . . .	13	17	10
Executors late T. Tindale . .	<i>The Emu</i> , vols. 1 to 20		

A good result has already followed the steps taken at the New South Wales Congress last year to secure affiliation of the New South Wales branch of the R.A.O.U. with the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales. Regular meetings are held, and a good stimulus has been given to the field study of birds.

The Council records with satisfaction a healthy development of public opinion in favour of a much better protection for our Australian birds. With the demand from learned societies that no species should be allowed to become extinct, the Council is in full agreement. A recent deputation to the Minister for Customs asked that control of export should be secured. The deputation was very sympathetically received. The Council takes the view that no export for private profit should be allowed, and that there should be no export whatever of rare species in danger of extermination.

In conclusion, may I again ask for the loyal help and earnest co-operation of all members and well-wishers to further our aims and objects.

Yours faithfully,

Z. GRAY, Hon. Secretary, R.A.O.U.